



ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE, SPCA

"... in behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves but depend on honorable men and women for kindness, mercy and justice"

POST OFFICE BOX 8257 • PITTSBURGH, PA 15218 • (412) 244-1372 • HOURS TO 5:30 p.m. DAILY



1562 '99 APR 28

EDWARD J. BLOTZER, JR.

Chief Humane Society Police Officer

IMPORTANT

Dear Commissioner Henney:

Like many Americans, I am very concerned about the safety of the food I choose to eat. I believe it is my right as a consumer to know if the food I am eating has been genetically altered. Such foods pose unknown risks to the environment, to family farmers, and to my health and the health of my family.

In May, a lawsuit was filed challenging the F.D.A.'s policy not to require labels on transgenic foods. I am writing in support of the demands of this lawsuit for safety testing and complete and prominent labels. Consumers should not be made unknowing guinea pigs in the industry's experiments with potentially dangerous foods. I am eager to hear that the F.D.A. is living up to its mandate to protect public health and will provide consumers with the information we need about the food we eat.

Edward J. Blotzer, Jr.

Chief Humane Society Police Officer

Animal Care and Welfare/S.P.C.A.

P.O. BOX 8257 • PITTSBURGH, PA 15218

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A Public Service to People and Pets without any cost to taxpayers, by volunteer/experts in the care and welfare of animals, and laws protecting animals from neglect/abuse.

Chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1970 • A Non-Profit Society (SPCA)

- Law Enforcement • Humane Education -



WHY HELP ANIMALS? OR: AREN'T PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT?

People who work hard in many ways to improve animal welfare are familiar with the harsh criticisms directed against their participation in the cause. Many critics say, "There are plenty of people, particularly children who need help. Why not devote yourself to them?" In many cases, these critics are not even involved in charitable work of any kind.

While it is true that many cruelties and heartless acts are being perpetrated against humans by humans, this does not lessen the horrific persecution and suffering of animals.

The use of animals in needless cosmetic research projects is particularly repugnant. This type of "research" often involves prolonged, agonizing experiments, lifelong caging, restraining devices, etc. The systematic torture of defenseless creatures claims the lives of millions of animals each year in our nation alone. Additional millions suffer at the hands of cruel humans as the animals are trapped, maimed, and murdered in the name of sportsmanship or in the pursuit of a fashionable garment.

Those who are sensitive enough to be distressed by animal suffering are, of course, distressed by human suffering too, and many are involved with human charities. It should not be forgotten that many significant and social reforms (like child protection legislation) were helped along by people who also loved animals.

Those who are dedicated to helping the less fortunate, whether they be human or non-human, usually do not denounce others similarly involved – and recognize the need in helping both.

Kindness to humans and non-humans is not a question of priority – but rather of being consistent. If a person has the ability to feel compassion, it is usually not restricted to one situation or one species. One can enjoy children, animals, flowers, clean air, clean water, and other beautiful things in this world without *specializing* in one. Similarly, one can feel strongly about human rights and animal rights with the same amount of fervor. Perhaps the critics should not condemn those who feel they must do something to help animals – they should instead redirect their criticism to the fellow in the mirror who does nothing at all for anyone.

Courtesy: PROGRESSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"Unless we have the courage to recognize cruelty for what it is - whether its victim is human or animal - we can not expect things to be much better in this world."

- Rachel Carson



UNITED STATES

IMPORTANT

16-70

Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1
Rockville, MD 20857

